

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
March 7, 2008**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the offices of the Indiana Judicial Center on March 7, 2008.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: John Sharpnack, Kim Hall, Gail Bardach, and Robert Altice, chair.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer and David Remondini provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the August 2007 and December 2007 meetings were approved.
4. **Committee goals.** Judge Altice led a discussion on committee goals for the year. The first idea discussed was an “adopt a school/adopt a judge project”. This project could be listed on the Judicial Center’s website, listing events such as mock trials. The committee members thought high schools and elementary schools could be targeted for the project. Judge Sharpnack informed the committee that the Court of Appeals used to assign the appellate judges to visit schools and make presentations. He thought this might be a good idea for the committee. Judge Bardach reported that she had a program for grade school children—4th graders came to court and 5th graders did a mock trial. The committee discussed the model curriculum developed by the National Center for State Courts for high school students on the topic of pirating music. The committee will review the model and try to partner with the Indiana Judges Association to purchase. The committee members also discussed presenting programs on underage drinking, and the dangers of alcohol, drugs and guns. Dave Remondini added that the difficult part of any of these programs is getting the attention of the right people. He suggested talking to Elizabeth Osborn about contacting teachers.
5. **Courtroom cameras pilot.** Judge Altice reported that the Indiana Supreme Court’s courtroom cameras pilot project concluded at the end of 2007. The Indiana Broadcasters Association and the Hoosier State Press Association have been asked to submit a report on the results of the project to the Supreme Court. Judge Altice suggested inviting Steve Key and Dan Byron to attend the next committee meeting to discuss the results of the pilot project.
6. **Bench/Media Guide to Interaction.** Judge Altice explained that the origins of the Bench/Media Guide to Interaction and the partnership with the Hoosier State Press Association on the project. He reported that Steve Key, General Counsel for HSPA, submitted an article on grand juries for possible inclusion in the Guide.

Judge Altice stated that he liked the idea of the article and asked staff attorney Jenny Bauer to re-write the article to fit the format of the Guide. Ms. Bauer distributed copies of the revised article. The committee directed Ms. Bauer to post the article to the Guide.

7. **Other business.** David Remondini reported that grants are available from the Indiana Supreme Court to trial courts for court improvement projects, which would include community relations projects. Mr. Remondini also reported that the National Center for Courts and Media conducted a regional workshop in Ohio in December 2007 as a follow-up to the workshops held in 2005. The Indiana attendees at the workshop were David Remondini, Judge Lorenzo Arredondo, Steve Key and journalist Laura Lane. Mr. Remondini further reported that he will be traveling to Ukraine as part of an exchange program to teach judges and journalists about the U.S. system of justice.
8. **Next meeting.** The next meeting will be held in July or August on a date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
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Indiana Judicial Center